CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface in which a fluid carpet or upholstery cleaning solution is dispensed onto the upholstery or carpet surface to be cleaned and the cleaning solution is recovered from the surface with suction, comprising the steps of:

5   admixing an oxidizing agent with the cleaning solution prior to the step of dispensing the cleaning solution onto the upholstery or carpet surface.

2.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 1 wherein the oxidizing agent is a preformed peracid compound selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, percarboxylic acid and salts, percarbonic acids and salts, perimidic acids and salts, peroxymonosulfuric acids and salts, and mixtures thereof, a persalt or a peroxide compound.

3.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 2 wherein the oxidizing agent further includes an activator.

4.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 3 wherein the activator is selected from the group consisting of tetraacetylethylenediamine, sodium octanoyloxybenzene sulfonate, sodium nonanoyloxybenzene sulfonate, sodium decanoyloxybenzene sulfonate, (6-

5   octanamido-caproyl)oxybenzenesulfonate, (6-nonanamido-caproyl)oxybenzenesulfonate, 6-decanamido-caproyl)oxybenzenesulfonate, and mixtures thereof.

5.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 4 wherein the activator is tetraacetylethylenediamine.

6.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 4 wherein the oxidizing agent is selected from the group consisting of perborate compounds, percarbonate compounds, perphosphate compounds and mixtures thereof.

7.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 6 wherein the admixture is at a temperature in the range of 120 to 190 degrees Fahrenheit during the dispensing step.

8.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 7 wherein the admixture is mixed with heated air to heat the admixture and further comprising the step of heating the air before the step of mixing with admixture with heated air.

9.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 7 and further comprising the step of heating the admixture inline in a heater between the admixing step and the dispensing step.

10.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 9 wherein the admixture is heated to a temperature in the range of 120 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit within 20 seconds.

11.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 7 and further comprising the step of heating the cleaning solution before the admixing step to heat the admixture.

12.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 1 wherein the oxidizing agent is selected from the group consisting of perborate compounds, percarbonate compounds, perphosphate compounds and mixtures thereof.

13.   A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 1 wherein the admixture is at a temperature in the range of 120 to 190 degrees Fahrenheit during the dispensing step.

14. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 13 wherein the admixture is mixed with heated air to heat the admixture and further comprising the step of heating the air before the step of mixing with admixture with heated air.

15. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 13 and further comprising the step of heating the admixture inline in a heater between the admixing step and the dispensing step.

16. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 15 wherein the admixture is heated to a temperature in the range of 120 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit within 20 seconds.

17. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 13 and further comprising the step of heating the cleaning solution before the admixing step to heat the admixture.

18. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 1 wherein the admixture is mixed with heated air to heat the admixture and further comprising the step of heating the air before the step of mixing with admixture with heated air.

19. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 1 and further comprising the step of heating the admixture inline in a heater between the admixing step and the dispensing step.

20. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 19 wherein the admixture is heated to a temperature in the range of 120 to 190 degrees Fahrenheit within 20 seconds.

21. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 1 and further comprising the step of heating the cleaning solution before the admixing step to heat the admixture.

22. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 1 wherein the cleaning solution is dispensed through a nozzle onto the surface to be cleaned.

23. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 1 wherein the cleaning solution includes an anionic and/or nonionic surfactant, an anti-soiling agent and an organic solvent.

24. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 23 wherein the anti-soiling agent is selected from the group consisting of polymerized styrene/maleic anhydride, acrylate copolymer, fluoro-chemical compounds and mixtures thereof.

25. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 24 wherein the organic solvent is glycol ether.

26. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 23 wherein the organic solvent is glycol ether.

27. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 23 wherein the cleaning solution includes a fragrance.

28. A method for cleaning an upholstery or carpet surface according to claim 1 wherein the admixture is at a temperature well above room temperature during the dispensing step.